

Dear Solid Waste Planning Area

Is your planning area interested in participating as one of the initial six planning areas that will serve as a pilot for the implementation of HF 2570? Approved by unanimous vote of the 2008 Legislature and signed by Governor Culver, this groundbreaking legislation is designed to provide significant long-term benefits for the environment and the citizens of the state of Iowa. The bill, known as HF 2570, establishes the ability for solid waste planning areas to be judged by a number of programs and services that you provide and not by the diversion calculation alone. If your area provides the following, you are eligible to apply to be one of the initial six planning areas to be designated as an Environmental Management System (EMS).

- Yard waste Management
- Hazardous Household Waste Collection
- Water Quality Improvement
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Recycling Services
- Environmental Education

The Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Council, which was established by the legislation and appointed by Rich Leopold (Director of the Department of Natural Resources), is requesting that your planning area inform the Council of your interest in applying for the EMS designation during either the pilot year (initiation up through September 30, 2009) or the subsequent year (October 1, 2009-September 30, 2010).

Establishing an "Environmental Management System" provides a continuous improvement process that will improve all aspects of your operations and programs. The benefits of being designated an EMS include:

- An exemption from solid waste reduction goals as imposed by section 455J.7
- A net tonnage fee of \$2.10 which is equivalent if your area is above the 25% and statewide diversion average
- Potential financial assistance as recommended by the Advisory Council
- An approved Environmental Management System files a comprehensive plan every five years instead of three

EMS will be a system that will benefit your community now and in the future, so please consider getting informed and involved with the process. The Advisory Committee plans to have opportunities to learn more about EMS for all planning areas as the implementation of the legislation moves forward.

Enclosed is a copy of the legislation, elements of an EMS, and the definitions of these EMS elements. Please indicate your interest in applying by notifying Brian Tormey, DNR, by December 5, 2008. At that time, a formal application will be sent to those interested in the initial pilot project.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to call -----.